

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-12 (cancelled).

13 (currently amended). A fastener in combination with a tube for securing said tube to a patient, said fastener comprising a tubular sleeve and a holding element attached at each end of the tubular sleeve, the tubular sleeve being of variable length and configured when lengthened to grip the tube, wherein the tube has a lumen and is adapted to can transport fluid to or from a patient.

14 (previously presented). A combination according to claim 13, wherein the sleeve when shortened is capable of sliding along the tube.

15 (previously presented). A combination according to claim 13, further comprising attachment means for attaching the sleeve to a patient.

16 (previously presented). A combination according to claim 15, wherein the attachment means comprises one or more loops.

17 (previously presented). A combination according to claim 16, wherein the or each loop is formed by doubling over the sleeve.

18 (currently amended). A combination according to claim 15, wherein the attachment means comprises a harness, sling or other means ~~adapted to embrace~~ for embracing a part of the patient.

19 (currently amended). A combination according to claim 15, wherein the attachment means comprises a pad or flange ~~adapted to lie~~ for lying against part of the patient's body.

20 (currently amended). A combination according to claim 19, wherein the pad or flange ~~is adapted to~~ can be adhered or sutured to the patient's body.

21-30 (cancelled).

31 (previously presented). A combination according to claim 13, wherein the sleeve has a perforated or foraminous wall defining a plurality of openings.

32 (previously presented). A combination according to claim 31, wherein an opening is capable of permitting the tube to pass through the wall of the sleeve.

33 (previously presented). A combination according to claim 32, wherein the sleeve wall is a mesh, grid, net or web.

34 (previously presented). A combination according to claim 31, wherein the sleeve is of filamentary construction.

35 (previously presented). A combination according to claim 31, wherein the sleeve is a spirally woven tube.

36 (currently amended) A fastener in combination with a tube, said fastener comprising a tubular sleeve and a holding element attached at each end of the tubular sleeve, the tubular sleeve being of variable length and configured when lengthened to grip the tube for ~~the purpose of~~ securing the tube to a patient, wherein the tube has a lumen and ~~is adapted to transport~~ can transport fluid to or from a patient.

37-38 (cancelled).

39 (previously presented). In combination, a fastener in combination with a tube as defined in claim 13 and instructions for its use in securing said tube to a patient.

40-45 (cancelled).

46 (new). A combination according to claim 13, wherein each holding element is a ring.

47 (new). A combination according to claim 13, wherein said tube is a catheter.

48 (new). A combination according to claim 36, wherein each holding element is a ring.

49 (new). A fastener for securing a tube to a patient, said fastener comprising a tubular sleeve of variable length capable when lengthened of gripping a tube, a holding element attached at a first end of said tubular sleeve and wherein the sleeve has a perforated or foraminous wall defining a plurality of openings.

50 (new). A fastener according to claim 13, wherein the holding element is a ring.

51 (new). A fastener to claim 49, wherein the sleeve when shortened is capable of sliding along a tube.

52 (new). A fastener according to claim 49, further comprising attachment means for attaching the sleeve to a patient.

53 (new). A fastener according to claim 52, wherein the attachment means comprises one or more loops.

54 (new). A fastener according to claim 53, wherein the or each loop is formed by doubling over the sleeve.

55 (new). A fastener according to claim 52, wherein the attachment means comprises a harness, sling or other means for embracing a part of the patient.

56 (new). A fastener according to claim 52, wherein the attachment means comprises a pad or flange for lying against part of the patient's body.

57 (new). A fastener according to claim 56, wherein the pad or flange can be adhered or sutured to the patient's body.

58 (new). A fastener according to claim 49, wherein an opening is capable of permitting a tube to pass through the wall of the sleeve.

59 (new). A fastener according to claim 58, wherein the sleeve wall is a mesh, grid, net or web.

60 (new). A fastener according to claim 49, wherein the sleeve is of filamentary construction.

61 (new). A fastener according to claim 49, wherein the sleeve is a spirally woven tube.